

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
April 2020

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Albemarle - Pamlico

National Estuary Partnership



Sound Stories

April 2020



I don't think the APNEP team has ever been more personally grateful for the outdoors than we are now, after working from home for the past month and a half. Being able to step outside and enjoy North Carolina's beautiful spring weather has been a balm during these uncertain times, and I hope all of you are also able to take advantage of spring's flowers, mild days, and (relatively) low humidity.

The APNEP team has continued to adapt to virtual and remote modes of engagement this month. The [ecological flows](#)-focused session that we had organized for the [NC Water Resources Research Institute's](#) annual conference in March is being rescheduled as a webinar and we hope you'll be able to join us for that event later this spring. Additionally, the APNEP-funded [Shad in the Classroom](#) and [Summer Teacher Institute](#) initiatives have both adapting as much as possible to a virtual setting.

Some of our activities have been able to continue as planned, including follow-up to 2019 [submerged aquatic vegetation \(SAV\) mapping](#) and the [recent APNEP-funded installation](#)

The coming months will continue to require adaptation and flexibility from us and our partners, but I have no doubt that the dedicated network of organizations working across our region to protect and restore its natural resources is more than up to this challenge.

Sincerely,
Dr. Bill Crowell
APNEP Director

APNEP News



APNEP-Funded Engagement Initiatives Adapt to COVID-19 Restrictions

Although unfortunately this year's [NC Museum of Natural Sciences](#)-led [Shad in the Classroom program](#) had to be canceled due to COVID-19, the word is still getting out about the program's good work. Some of the program's data was utilized in this recently published [American Fisheries Society paper](#), which demonstrates the importance of tailoring environmental education for diverse audiences. Pre- and post-survey results showed that although all students gained knowledge after participating in the program, self-identified students of color fell behind their peers.

We are hopeful that our other long-term engagement initiative, the upcoming [UNC Institute for the Environment](#)-led [Summer Teacher Institute](#), will be able to continue as

on approach of the workshop can be translated to a virtual setting. These are uncertain times for us all, but it's inspiring to see the innovative and creative approaches our partner organizations are taking to adapt to virtual education and professional development!

Read the Fisheries Journal Article



APNEP Funds Albemarle-Pamlico Watershed Signs

As part of APNEP's commitment to increasing public awareness of the connectivity of the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed, we've contracted with the NC Department of Transportation to install six highway signs noting that drivers are entering the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed. Signage was recently installed along highways in Orange County, Wake County, Johnston County, Sampson County, and Onslow County. So keep an eye out for these big brown signs the next time you're driving in or out of the Albemarle-Pamlico region!

NC Fish Forum



The NC Fish Forum engages stakeholders to improve the communication of fish

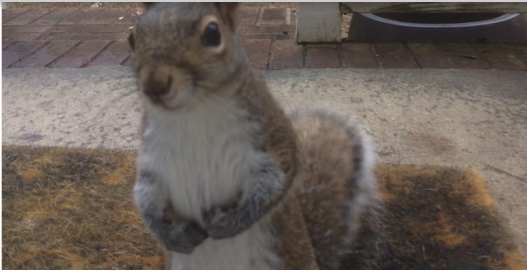


Fish consumption advisories (FCAs) alert people to potential health risks from eating

Fish Forum Publishes Plan for Improving NC Fish Consumption Advisories

Understanding which fish species are safe to eat can be complicated - an issue the NC Fish Forum stakeholder group - led by Superfund at Duke, UNC Institute for the Environment, NC State Center for Human Health and the Environment, and the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health - has been working to address. APNEP staff also participate in the Fish Forum and we're excited to check out their [recently published report](#) summarizing next steps to improve fish consumption advisories in our state.

[Learn more](#)



North Carolinians Celebrate Earth Day Virtually

Many of the planned Earth Day celebrations across the state this month may have been canceled due to COVID-19, but that didn't stop North Carolinians from sharing their love for and connection to the nature that exists all around them! Organizations such as the [NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources](#) and [NC Office of Environmental Education](#) encouraged people to post photos of nature in their backyards using the [#NCBackyardNature hashtag](#), and the APNEP team needed no further encouragement to step outside and explore!

From top to bottom, left to right: an Eastern gray squirrel, a green anole, Mayapple plants (also known as Mandrakes Duck's Foot, and many other names), an American robin, and bluets. [Check out APNEP's Twitter account](#) to learn more about the animals in these photos as well as about the Albemarle-Pamlico region!

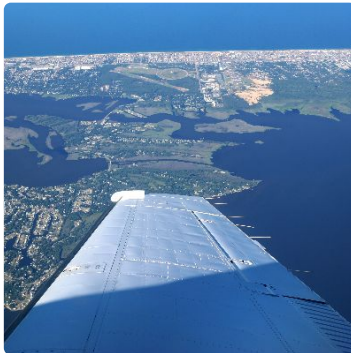


Upcoming Events & Meetings

All meetings associated with APNEP's committees, Action Teams, and Monitoring & Assessment Teams are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact apnep@ncdenr.gov.

- May 11, 2020 | 9:00am - 1:30pm - [Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Steering Committee Meeting \(Virtual via Webex\)](#)
- May 20, 2020 | TBD - [APNEP Leadership Council Meeting](#)

APNEP Soundings Blog



X Marks the Seagrass

April 20, 2020

It turns out that the secret to mapping North Carolina's seagrasses lies not under the water, but thousands of feet in the air. Learn more about collaborative efforts to utilize aerial imagery in order to map this vital habitat in our newest blog post!

[Read More](#)

Current Grant Opportunities

- May 4: [2020 319\(h\) Grant RFP](#)
- May 26: [NC WRRRI and USGS 104\(b\) Research Funding](#)



- Ongoing: [NC Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Sea Grant Minigrants Program](#)

Grant Details

Partner Spotlight



North Carolina Resiliency Projects Receive NFWF Funding

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has awarded funding to nine North Carolina-based projects that will contribute to recovery from Hurricanes Michael and Florence. Projects will utilize nature-based infrastructure, including living shorelines, wetlands, dunes, coastal forests, and floodplain habitat, to increase community resilience and ecosystem integrity.

[Learn more](#)

What We're Reading

- [Soak-Spread-Slow Stormwater Song and Video](#) (Clean Water Education Partnership)

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- [Coastal Wetlands Save \\$1.8 Million per Year for Each Square Kilometer](#) (EOS)
 - [What 'Walden' can tell us about social distancing and focusing on life's essentials](#) (The Conversation)



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